



**Public Works  
Storm Water Utility**

**(1) Program Title: Maintenance of Trees in Public Rights-of-Way**

**(2) Division/Section: Vegetation Control**

- (3) Program Element:**
- (a) TPDES**
    - 1. SW Controls & Collection System Operations
  - (b) NFIP**
  - (c) Mandate/Public Safety**

**(4) Statement of Purpose:**

This activity is associated with a TPDES permit requirement. The Permit's Storm Water Management Program Requirement (1) states that the municipal separate storm sewer system and any storm water structural controls shall be operated in a manner to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable. Studies have shown that trees help improve water quality by increasing the dissolved oxygen. Trees help keep the water cooler which increases dissolved oxygen levels. Trees also can help reduce the amount of storm water infrastructure necessary for a community by absorbing some of the storm run-off. Trees require maintenance to stay health and not become an obstruction due to excessive canopy growth. After a storm event, downed trees must be removed from the streets so as not to cause a traffic hazard. This would include rain events and ice storms.

**(5) Description of Actions (Statement of Services):**

Tree canopies are trimmed to a minimum of 7 feet above the ground in drainage channels to provide clearance for the mowers. Tree branches are also trimmed along the City's street rights-of-way to prevent visual obstructions or interference with motor vehicles. While the City does not have a tree inventory at this time, inventory identified is based upon an estimated 15% of all earthen drainage channels have trees that require trimming. It takes approximately one hour/acre to trim trees. This crew is also required to remove trees that have established within 2 feet of concrete drainage structures. Over time, tree roots will damage the concrete and require early repairs. The tree crew consists of a 4-person crew. This crew is on call 24 hours/day 7days/week to remove trees that have caused a traffic hazard. Personnel that have received training within the Vegetation Control section supplement the crew during storm events.